

IN THE CLAIMS

1-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method of transmitting items containing content information to a user terminal and reproducing a selected one of said transmitted items at a time selected by a user of said user terminal, comprising:

providing a user terminal;

transmitting information items to said user terminal, at least some of said transmitted items containing content information including at least one of moving images or audio sound;

at said user terminal, receiving said transmitted items containing content information and assigning access priorities to said received items;

selecting some of said received items containing content information on the basis of information representing said access priorities;

selectively storing said selected items in said user terminal;

arranging said stored items of information in an order according to said access priorities; and

at a user-selected time after storing said selected items, user selecting one of said stored items and causing said at least one of moving images or audio sound to be reproduced from said user-selected item.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with

each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said user terminal, counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said user terminal to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

28. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said user terminal, counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values and by second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content

information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said user terminal to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) A method of transmitting items containing content information to a user terminal and reproducing a selected one of said transmitted items at a time selected by a user of said user terminal, comprising:

providing a user terminal;

transmitting information items to said user terminal, at least some of said transmitted items containing content information including at least one of moving images or audio sound;

at said user terminal, receiving said transmitted items containing content information and assigning access priorities to said received items;

selecting some of said received items containing content information on the basis of information representing said access priorities;

selectively storing said selected items in said user terminal;

deleting at least one of said stored items from said user terminal in an order beginning with said stored item having a lowest one of said access priorities; and

at a user-selected time after storing said selected items, user selecting one of said stored items and causing said at least one of moving images or audio sound to be reproduced from said user-selected item.

31. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said access priority of each said selected

item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said user terminal, counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values.

32. (previously presented) The information processing method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said user terminal to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

33. (previously presented) The information processing method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said user

terminal, counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values and second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said user terminal to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) An information receiving apparatus operable to receive transmitted items containing content ~~in formation~~ information and to reproduce a selected one of said transmitted items at a time selected by a user, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive items containing content information transmitted to said information receiving apparatus;

a controller operable to select some of said received items, said selected items containing content information including at least one of moving images or audio sound, said selected items being selected on the basis of information representing access priorities for respective ones of said selected items;

an information storing unit operable to selectively store said selected items; and

an information forming unit operable to arrange each of said stored items in an order according to said access priorities,

said controller being further operable to permit a user to select one of said stored items containing content information at a user-selected time after storing said user-selected item and to cause said at least one of moving images or audio sound to be reproduced from said user-selected item.

36. (currently amended) The information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information receiving apparatus, counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values.

37. (currently amended) The information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information receiving apparatus to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

38. (currently amended) The information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information receiving apparatus, counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values and said second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information receiving apparatus to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) An information receiving apparatus operable to receive transmitted items containing content ~~in format~~information and to reproduce a selected one of said transmitted items at a time selected by a user, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive items containing content information transmitted to said information receiving apparatus;

a controller operable to select some of said received items, said selected items containing content information including at least one of moving images or audio sound, said selected items being selected on a basis of information representing access priorities for respective ones of said selected items; and

an information storing unit operable to selectively store said selected items,

wherein said controller is further operable to delete at least one of said stored items in an order beginning with said stored item having a lowest one of said access priorities ~~and to~~ and to permit a user to select one of said stored items containing content information at a user-selected time after storing said user-selected item and to cause said at least one of moving images or audio sound to be reproduced from said user-selected item.

41. (currently amended) The information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~ information receiving apparatus counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values.

42. (currently amended) The information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said access priority

of each said selected item is determined by second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information receiving apparatus to determine said access priority for each said selected item.

43. (currently amended) The information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said access priority of each said selected item is determined by first processing including i) associating with each of said information items category attribute information corresponding to a category assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said category being one of a plurality of categories, ii) transmitting said category attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, iii) using said transmitted category attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information receiving apparatus counting a number of times said transmitted items in each said category are accessed by a user to obtain count values of said plurality of categories, and iv) determining said access priorities from said count values and second processing including i) associating with each of said information items priority attribute information corresponding to a priority assigned to the content information contained in each said information item, said priority being one of a plurality of priorities, ii) transmitting said priority attribute information associated with each said transmitted item, and iii) using said transmitted priority attribute information at said ~~user terminal~~information

Application No.: 09/812,163

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-147

| receiving apparatus to determine said access priority for each
said selected item.

44. (canceled)